GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:948
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Wi-Fi Connectivity
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to provide free of cost Wi-Fi connectivity services in Cities and Panchayats including Rajasthan under National Broadband Project in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been prescribed for completion of such project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the delay in getting necessary Gigabet Passive Optical Network, the completion of project is likely to be delayed; and

(f) if so, the total stretch in kilometers of completion of fibre network in the country including Rajasthan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers.

The timeline for connecting one lakh GPs with OFC to provide broadband connectivity under Phase-I has been revised to 31.12.2016.

In order to review the strategy and approach towards speedy implementation of NOFN Project, a Committee was constituted on 14th January, 2015. The Committee submitted its report on 31st March, 2015. The Committee, inter-alia, recommended that the project be renamed as BharatNet to reflect the national aspiration to establish a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to realize the vision of Digital India, in partnership with the States and the private sector. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that at least one hour of free Wi-Fi usage per day for each resident of the GP should be provided by the identified community Wi-Fi services provider.

(e) & (f) Efforts are being made to expedite the supply of Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) equipment for timely completion of the project. State-wise status of NOFN, including Rajasthan, as on 31.01.2016, is given in the Statement at Annexure-I.

Annexure-I
Statewise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 31.01.2016
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S.No. States/ UTs No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I Pipe laid (kms.) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms) No. of GPs where OFC laid No. of GPs lit
1. Jammu & Kashmir 624 93 69 47 0
2. Himachal Pradesh 283 201 75 14 0
3. Punjab 6128 4432 3280 2055 0
4. Haryana 6090 4775 4340 2776 45
5. Rajasthan 6967 11281 10065 3092 71
6. Chandigarh 12 18 19 12 12
7. Uttarakhand 1767 1190 862 554 46
8. UP (West) 8040 8095 4290 2055 65
9. UP (East) 14474 14634 10545 4764 36
10. Bihar 5202 6416 5303 1936 124
11. West Bengal 2713 1933 1683 619 0
12. Sikkim 0 0 0 0 0
13. Assam 1013 1751 1359 515 23
14. Jharkhand 1388 2600 1862 770 84
15. Odisha 3388 4086 2960 1355 12

16. Andaman & Nicobar 69 0 0 0 0
17. Arunachal Pradesh 256 272 69 10 0
18. Nagaland 743 1160 509 154 0
19. Manipur 24 71 73 24 0
20. Meghalaya 638 737 210 47 0
21. Tripura 1021 1277 951 434 40
22. Mizoram 163 183 0 0 0
23. Madhya Pradesh 10516 15531 12134 3898 26
24. Chattishgarh 2110 4368 3913 1258 171
25. Gujarat 5735 5508 3572 1648 91
26. Maharashtra 12055 11078 7826 3478 37
27. Daman & Diu 0 0 0 0 0
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 0 0 0 0 0
29. Karanataka 5599 9596 9248 4348 2283
30. Andhra Pradesh 0 1913 19 0 0
31. Telengana 2097 3912 2883 1296 5
32. Tamil Nadu 0 0 0 0 0
33. Kerala 977 746 810 1129 1129
34. Pudducherry 98 82 92 98 101
35. Lakshadweep 10 0 0 0 0
36. Goa* - - - - -
Grand Total 100200 117939 89021 38386 4401
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*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.
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